

## Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03  
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01  
TRSE-00 ACDA-07 SSM-03 IO-13 /080 W  
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R 041316Z MAR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2382  
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

S E C R E T CAIRO 3798

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR EG PLO  
SUBJ: PLO ON GENEVA AND RECOGNITION ISSUES

1. TIME CORRESPONDENT WILTON WYNN, WHO HAS LONG EXPERIENCE IN ME, GAVE FOLLOWING ACCOUNT OF HIS RECENT INTERVIEWS WITH SADAT (FEB 17) AND ARAFAT (FEB 24) TO EMBOFF ON MARCH 4. SINCE ARAFAT INTERVIEW HAS NOT YET BEEN PUBLISHED, ADDRESSEES ASKED NOT TO DISCUSS NEITHER ON THE RECORD NOR OFF THE RECORD COMMENTS WHICH FOLLOW.

2. MEPC. INTERVIEW WITH SADAT WAS CONDUCTED WHILE FAHMY MEETING WITH ARAFAT PRIOR TO SECRETARY'S ARRIVAL FEB 17. OFF THE RECORD, SADAT SAID HE HAD INSTRUCTED FAHMY TO TELL ARAFAT EGYPT WILL NOT PERMIT PALESTINIANS TO DELAY HIS PARTICIPATION IN MEPC. ON FEB 24, ARAFAT TOLD WYNN ON REEAT ON THE RECORD, IN COURSE 2 ONE HALF HOUR CONVERSTAION IN BEIRUT, THAT HE WOULD GO TO MEPC IF CONFER- ENCE AS "SERIOUSLY" TO DISCUSS SETTLEMENT. HE WOULD NOT RPT NOT GO IF CONFERENCE SEEMED DESIGNED MERELY TO PROMOTE ILLUSION THAT MOMENTUM TOWARD SETTLEMENT IS BEING MAINTAINED.

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3. PLO RECOGNITION OF ISRAEL. IN HIS CONVERSATIONS IN BEIRUT WITH ARAFAT AND OTHER PALESTINIAN LEADERS, WYNN FOUND STRIKING CHANGE IN FATAH LEADERSHIP'S VIEW OF WEST BANK/GAZA STATE. ALL TALKED OF THIS ERSTWHILE "HALF A LOAF" PROPOSAL AS FACT OF LIFE. AFAFAT SPENT CONSIDERABLE TIME ON DIFFICULTIES HE WOULD HAVE IN PUBLICLY AND EXPLICITLY RECOGNIZ-

ING STATE OF ISRAEL AND SOUGHT PRESENT CASE THAT HE HAD ALREADY, BY VARIOUS ACTIONS, IMPLICITLY RECOGNIZED ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO EXIST. AMONG THESE ACTIVITIES HE SPECIFICALLY LISTED (OFF THE RECORD) PALESTINAINA CONTACTS WITH ISRAELIS IN PARIS THROUGH FATAH'S SARTAWI. SUCH CONTACTS, ARAFAT, SAID, MEAN HE HAS GONE FURTHER THAN ANY OTHER ARAB LEADER; HE IS "NEGOTIATING" WITH ISRAELIS.

4. COMMENT: ARAFAT'S WILLINGNESS TO GO ON THE RECORD (STRICTLY PROTECT UNTIL PUBLISHED) AS WILLING ATTEND SUBSTANTIVE GENEVA CONVERENCE, IS, TO BEST OUR KNOWLEDGE, NEW AND SIGNIFICATNT SIGNPOST OF FATAH'S WILLINGNESS NEGOTIATE FOR TRUCATED STATE. NO ONE, HOWEVER, TO WHOM WE HAVE SPOKEN IN LAST FEW DAYS BELIEVES THAT PNC WILL MOVE DECISIVELY TOWARD THIS END. ARAFAT TOLD WYNN (OFF THE RECORD) THAT MARCH 12 PNC IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT MEETING, ECHOING PRESIDENT'S REMARKS TO THE SECRETARY. WHILE "FIGHTERS" STILL HAVE LARGEST (THOUGH NOT MAJORITY) VOTE IN PNC, MODERATES HAVE APPARENTLY GAINED FROM EXPANSION OF NUMBER DELEGATES. WE ARE TOLD THAT AMONG NEW MODERATE MEMBERS, FOR EXAMPLE, IS DR. EDMOND SA'ID, AMCIT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR. CONSENSUS OF OUR CONTACTS CONTINUE TO BE THAT PNC IS MOST LIKELY OFFICIALLY TO CHARGE EXCOMM WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR KEY DECISIONS ON BEHALF PLO, INCLUDING RECOGNITION, GOVERNMENT IN EXILE, AND MEPC ISSUES. EILTS

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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